FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 300

91ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES OSTMANN (Sponsor), DOLAN, REINHART, COLEMAN AND BOUCHER.

Read 1st time January 9, 2001, and 1000 copies ordered printed.

TED WEDEL, Chief Clerk

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AN ACT

To amend chapter 168, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to national teacher certification incentives.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 168, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 168.700, to read as follows:

168.700. 1. The department of elementary and secondary education shall, pursuant to this section, adopt a "National Teacher Certification Encouragement Program". This program shall encourage teachers to voluntarily apply for and achieve teacher certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, pursuant to this section.

- 2. Beginning July 1, 2002, subject to appropriation, the department shall pay the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification fee for any teacher already certified to teach by this state, provided that:
- (1) The teacher seeking payment pursuant to this subsection shall first seek reimbursement for the costs of such certification through the school district in which such teacher is employed, if any. The department shall only be required to pay any portion of the certification fee that the school district does not pay pursuant to any applicable reimbursement programs that the district may have; and
- (2) The department shall pay one-half of the certification fee when the applying teacher submits documentation to the department that he or she is a candidate for national board certification. The department shall pay the second half of the fee upon receipt of documentation that the teacher has achieved the certification.
- 3. For any school year beginning after the achievement of the certification described in subsection 1 of this section, the department shall, subject to appropriation,

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pay a bonus to any teacher so certified. Any teacher seeking the bonus established pursuant to this subsection shall submit a copy of his or her national certification to the department. The school district in which such teacher works shall certify the salary of any teacher nationally certified pursuant to this section to the department. The bonus paid pursuant to this subsection may be paid in a lump sum at the beginning of the fiscal year to a school district in the amount necessary to cover all of the bonuses owed to teachers in the district, to be held by the district for a pro-rata disbursement to be included in such teachers' paychecks; or such bonus may be paid to such teachers in whatever other manner that the department may by rule provide. The amount of the bonus shall be:

- (1) Ten percent of such teacher's salary for the appropriate school year, for all nationally certified teachers in unaccredited districts, provisionally accredited districts, financially stressed districts pursuant to section 161.520, RSMo, or underserved districts. For purposes of this subdivision, "underserved districts" shall mean school districts that, in the determination of the department, have demonstrated a difficulty in attracting or retaining teachers;
- (2) Five percent of such teacher's salary for the appropriate school year, for all nationally certified teachers in all other school districts of this state.
- 4. The department of elementary and secondary education shall promulgate rules for the enforcement of this section. No rule or portion of a rule promulgated pursuant to this section shall take effect unless such rule has been promulgated pursuant to chapter 536, RSMo.